



**John H. Messing**

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October 2, 2000

Douglas J. Meislahn  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2767  
Patent and Trademark Office  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Re: Application/Control Number: 09/081,872  
Inventor: John H. Messing

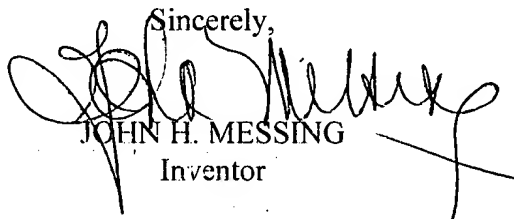
Dear Mr. Meislahn:

This in furtherance of my letters of June 15, 2000 and July 12, 2000. I had understood from your earlier conversations that a new office action would be mailed relating to the office action of March 24, 2000 because of a correction to be made in that communication. By telephonic communication dated on or about September 12, 2000, I learned from you for the first time that a second office action was noted in the computer as having been generated sometime during June, 2000, but that action apparently had not actually been mailed. I spoke again with Mr. Swann, in your absence again on or about September 22, 2000, who confirmed that the office action of June 2000 had not been mailed but would be mailed to me that day. I have still have not received the second office action. The purpose of this communication is to document these events correctly so that no abandonment will be construed against the application by the passage of time. I understand the new office action will have a response due date of 90 days from the mailing date.

Please contact me at once if I have misstated or misunderstood any of the foregoing. If it is correct, there is no need for you to respond.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN H. MESSING  
Inventor

JHM/ib

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213 # 5  
KMS  
10-20-00

325-1087 (fax)  
Sent via telecopier and US postal mail  
RECEIVED  
OCT 17 2000  
TECH CENTER 2700

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 2000  
OIPE/JCWS